(d) the areas of land to be covered with tree plantation and soil and water conservation activities under the project;

(e) whether the project will help in the rehabilitation and protection of natural forests;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken under the scheme to increase the area under green cover, timber and bamboo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A forestry project costing Rs. 566 crores is being implemented in 17 districts, including Bellary district, of Karnataka with assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan under the official development assistance. About 85% of the project cost will be provided by Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund as loan. The Project is to be implemented over a period of 5 years.

(d) to (g) The project envisages area coverage of 4,70,500 hectares through afforestation and soil conservation activities in degraded forests, protection of natural forests, distribution and planting of seedlings under farm forestry and afforestation of Government wastelands, common lands, and institutional lands. Involvement of local people in planning and implementation of project activities is one of the important thrust areas under the project. The project also supports technology upgradation.

Import of Sugar by STC

1682. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of sugar imported by the State Trading Corporation recently; and

(b) the impact thereof on the sugar industry and on cane growers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No sugar has been imported by State Trading Corporation of India during the financial year 1996-97.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Budget Provisions for Minorities

1683. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the budgetary provisions have not been made so far for the sanctioned Fifteen Point Programmes for the welfare of minorities; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to provide budgetary assistance in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities basically aims at securing life and property to the minorities and ensuring social and educational development for them. The programme does not specifically envisage any separate budgetary provision for this purpose. However, the Govt. of India has been implementing certain schemes through the Ministry of Welfare as well as the Deptt. of Education for the welfare of minorities. Multi-Sectoral Plans are being prepared for 41 minority concentration districts and an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been allocated under this scheme for VIII Plan. The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, which has been set up on 30.9.94 to provide loans at concessional rates to people belonging to minority communities, has been allocated an amount of Rs. 125 crores during the VIIIth plan period. For pre-examination coaching scheme for weaker sections among minorities an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been allocated during the VIIIth Plan Period. Besides, the Deptt. of Education has been implementing Schemes of Modernisation of Madrasa Education Community polytechnics and Area Intensive Programme for educationally backward minorities. Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 16.27 crore have been allocated during VIIIth Plan for these schemes respectively.

[English]

Implementation of Special Component Plan in Karnataka

1684. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the achievement made under the Special Component Plan (SCP) in Karnataka during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the fund earmarked for implementing the Special Component Plan during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the target fixed for providing benefits to the Scheduled Castes in the Ninth Plan period alongwith other details in this regard ?